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(CIA)

WASHINGTON--CHAIRMAN RICHARD B. RUSSELL OF THE SENATE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE DESCRIBED AS "PURE POPPYCOCK" THE IDEA THAT THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY MAKES FOREIGN POLICY AND STRONGLY OPPOSED ANY OTHER COMMITTEE "MUSCLING IN" ON THE JOB OF OVERSEEING THE BIG SPY AGENCY.

THE GEORGIA DEMOCRAT MADE THE STATEMENT IN A SENATE SPEECH. HIS COMMENTS CAME JUST 24 HOURS BEFORE THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE WAS TO CONSIDER -- AND PROBABLY APPROVE -- A RESOLUTION WHICH WOULD CLAIM A ROLE FOR THAT GROUP IN HIDING HEND ON CIA'S SPY OPERATIONS.

RUSSELL REVIEWED FOR HIS SENATE COLLEAGUES THE CIRCUMSTANCES UNDER WHICH THE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL AND THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY WERE CREATED BY THE SO-CALLED UNIFICATION ACT OF 1947. THAT BILL WAS CONSIDERED ONLY BY THE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE, RUSSELL SAID, AND UNDER SENATE PRECEDENTS THE A

RMED SERVICES COMMITTEE GOT

JURISDICTION.

"UNLESS OUR COMMITTEE HAS BEEN DEFEATED," RUSSELL SAID IN DISCUSSING THE LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT FOR CIA, "THERE IS NO JUSTIFICATION WHATEVER FOR ANY OTHER COMMITTEE MUSCLING IN..."

PENDING BEFORE THE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE IS A PROPOSAL, SPONSORED BY SEN. EUGENE J. MCGRATH, D-MINN., WHICH WOULD GIVE THAT COMMITTEE THREE MEMBERS OF THE WATCHDOG GROUP WHICH SUPERVISES CIA OPERATIONS. THE JOB IS PRESENTLY PERFORMED BY TOP RANKING MEMBERS OF THE ARMED SERVICES AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEES WHO CUSTOMARILY MEET TOGETHER UNDER RUSSELL'S CHAIRMANSHIP.

RUSSELL NOTED THAT THE MOVE BY THE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE IS PROMPTED IN LARGE PART BY THE CONTENTION THAT CIA HAS BECOME INVOLVED IN MAKING FOREIGN POLICY AROUND THE WORLD.

"THERE IS SIMPLY NOT A SCINTILLA OF TRUTH IN THAT CHARGE," RUSSELL SAID, ADDING THAT THERE IS NOT A SINGLE INSTANCE THAT CAN BE CITED IN WHICH CIA "HAS ATTEMPTED TO MAKE -- OR FIX -- FOREIGN POLICY."

CIA, HE SAID, CANNOT INITIATE PROCEEDINGS ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD "UNLESS IT HAS BEEN ORDERED BY THE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL." THE LATE PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY ORDERED THAT ALL U.S. AMBASSADORS WERE TO BE THE BOSS OF ALL AGENCIES REPRESENTED ON THEIR POSTS, RUSSELL SAID, AND KENNEDY NOTIFIED AMBASSADORS BY PERSONAL LETTER THAT THE ORDER DID APPLY TO CIA.

"IT IS JUST PURE POPPYCOCK THAT THE CIA FIXES, AND MAKES, FOREIGN POLICY," RUSSELL DECLARED.

UNDER QUESTIONING, RUSSELL NOTED THAT THE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE ALSO MUST PASS ON THE NOMINATIONS OF THOSE ELECTED TO HEAD THE CIA.

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RUSSELL TOLD THE SENATE THAT FREE DISCUSSION OF THE JURISDICTIONAL SQUABBLE ON THE SENATE FLOOR "HAS A TENDENCY TO CHILL" SOME OF THE CIA'S INFORMANTS EVEN IN THE NATION'S CAPITAL. HE SAID OPEN DISCUSSION MAY "CAUSE THEM TO CLOSE UP LIKE A CLAM -- CAUSE THEM TO LOSE THEIR POSITION -- OR HAVE THE CONSEQUENCES THAT THEY MAY LOSE THEIR LIVES."

HE SAID HE IS "PROUD OF THE FACT THAT THERE HAS NEVER BEEN A LEAK OUT OF THIS SUBCOMMITTEE." HE SAID HE THINKS SOMETIMES THAT THE "GREAT CLAMOR" IN PART OF THE PRESS FOR OPENING UP OF COMMITTEE INFORMATION ON THE CIA GROWS FROM HIS SUBCOMMITTEE'S GUARDING OF CIA SECRETS.

SEN. FRANK J. LAUSCHE, D-OHIO, A FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE MEMBER, SAID THAT WHILE RUSSELL'S SUBCOMMITTEE HAD "DISTINGUISHED ITSELF" BY NOT LEAKING INFORMATION, THE FOREIGN RELATIONS GROUP "DISTINGUISHES ITSELF BY THE NUMBER OF LEAKS THAT HAS COME OUT OF THAT COMMITTEE."

OVER EXPOSURE OF THE CIA WOULD "NULLIFY THE VERY CONSIDERABLE COST IT TAKES TO RUN THIS AGENCY," RUSSELL SAID. IT WOULD CAUSE CIA INFORMANTS TO "CLOSE UP LIKE CLAMS AND CAUSE SOME OF THEM TO LOSE THEIR POSITIONS AND EVEN THEIR LIVES," HE SAID.

"I THINK THIS CHALLENGES THE COMPETENCY OF THE CIA IF WE'RE GOING TO TREAT IT JUST LIKE ANOTHER GOVERNMENT AGENCY," SAID SEN. JOHN STENNIS, D-MISS.

SEN. LEVERETT SALTONSTALL, R-MASS., PRAISED THE WORK OF THE CIA FOR BOTH REPUBLICAN AND DEMOCRATIC ADMINISTRATIONS.

SALTONSTALL SAID UNDUE PUBLICITY ABOUT THE CIA WOULD HINDER ITS IMPORTANT JOB OF SUPPLYING THE PRESIDENT WITH INFORMATION USED TO MAKE IMPORTANT DECISIONS.

HE ALSO LISTED THE NAMES OF MEMBERS OF A SPECIAL PRESIDENTIAL COMMITTEE WHICH SERVED AS ANOTHER CHECK ON THE CIA. IT WAS HEADED BY WASHINGTON ATTORNEY CLARK M. CLIFFORD AND INCLUDED SUCH PRIVATE REPRESENTATIVES OF DR. EDWARD LAND, DEVELOPER OF THE POLAROID CAMERA. GEN. MAXWELL D. TAYLOR WAS NAMED AS ANOTHER MEMBER OF THE COMMITTEE.

STENNIS SAID RUSSELL KEPT A TIGHT REIN ON THE CIA BUDGET. "THEY ARE EVERYTHING THEY CAN GET OUT OF THE SENATOR FROM GEORGIA," STENNIS SAID.

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